



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE FINANCE, REVENUE, AND BONDING COMMITTEE MARCH 31, 2022

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Testimony Opposing Senate Bill No. 479

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE TRAINING PROGRAM

Senator Fonfara, Representative Scanlon, Senator Martin, and Representative Cheeseman, and distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on Senate Bill No. 479, An Act Establishing a Commercial Driver's License Training Program.

This bill creates a new program to provide individuals pursuing a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) with tuition assistance. It would also create a separate, non-lapsing account to be used by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) in the administration of this program. The account would be funded with \$6.5 million in new bond authorizations to be spent on startup costs across three new CDL training centers across the state. This type of workforce development program is not the type typically administered by OPM. This type of program would be better suited for the Office of Workforce Strategy (OWS). Moreover, it seems duplicative of existing efforts by OWS which recently closed its first round of applications for CareerConneCT, the \$63 million job training fund that we launched in January 2022 to help individuals earn industry-recognized credentials through short-term training programs, with CDL being an area of focus. In addition, the biennial budget included \$40 million in General Obligation bond funds to support CareerConneCT investments in workforce training programs for in demand industries.

I respectfully request that the committee oppose this bill. I would like to again thank the committee for the opportunity to present this testimony, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.